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and wrecked ships above sea-level. The criteria for depression are, buildings and streets beneath the sea, trees and peat under sea-level, drowned valleys, a lack of delta building, and drowned volcanic craters.

The author fails to recognize the changes which take place along elevated and depressed shore-lines, thus leaving out the consideration of the time since elevation or depression. For example, he uses drowned valleys, but not the islands which must result from the same depression. These islands will in time become tied on to the nearest land with sandbars or *tomboli*.

The causes of continental movements are considered and the hypothesis of Suess is discussed. Contact metamorphism is briefly summarized. F. P. G.

**Esto Perpetua: Algerian Studies and Impressions. By H. Belloc.**

London, Duckworth & Co. 8vo. 1906.

This handsome little book, with its exquisite illustrations in the text, and with sketch maps of a quite indifferent character, can hardly be classed with geographical literature. Of course, descriptions of landscape and of nature in general abound, but there is nothing sufficiently special to authorize its classification as a contribution to the science. It reads as if written by the author for himself and a few intimate friends, rather than for the public. Barbary is the theme, its history, cultural development, etc., but no period of the history of its inhabitants is dwelt upon in a satisfactory manner, and there are digressions that appear not only unnecessary but confusing. The author opens with a long and ornate disquisition on the Latin (*lateen* as emphasized) sail and its influence on the spread of the Arabs, and then jumps from site to site along the coast, dashes inland to Constantine, contemplates the Atlas and grazes the Sahara, all in a rambling, cursory manner, which presupposes too much from the uninformed and is not specific enough for him who knows of and takes an interest in the people and countries. Meditations too often take the place of statements of interesting facts. The tone, however, is pleasing, free from conceit or national prejudice; what is said of people is given in a mild and eminently friendly manner, that sharply contrasts with the aggressive and harsh judgments too many travellers are wont to express. It is a book that can be sincerely commended to the general reader, less for the information it contains than for its amiable tone and modest character.

A. F. B.

**The Republic of Colombia. By F. Loraine Petre.** London, E. Stanford, 1906. (8s. 6d.)

A very useful, singularly modest and impartial book, written by an Englishman. One would hardly suspect it, so modest and "unBritannic" is the style, so fair the treatment other nations receive at the hands of the writer. Fair in almost every respect, Mr. Petre presents a good picture of lands and their inhabitants, his historical allusions are short and, with the exception of a few harsh sentences about Spanish conquest and early treatment of the aborigines, quite exact. The brother of Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, Hernan Pérez, indeed gave cause for very severe judgment. Otherwise, a better knowledge of the nature of the Indian and more discrimination as between military necessities and civil administration would place many deeds in a different light. It is time, also, for a revision of the life of Bolívar and the exalted opinion in which he is still held. Too much, entirely too much, credit is given to him. To call him always the "Washington of South America" is not strictly complimentary to the memory of him who, with much more propriety and justice, is termed the "Father of our country." To cite but one instance: Washington was a remarkable military man. He was in

the field, and, from boyhood on almost, distinguished himself far above the British general officers under whose orders he fought in his early days. Afterwards, when the Revolution was in full blast, he met with reverses, but these were due chiefly to the failings common to raw militia, lack of subordination and experience. Bolivar had the title of general and the rank. He commanded in a single action of consequence, the decisive battle at Junin (Ayacucho), and, as long as he was upon the field, the day was lost for the side he commanded. It was won in the end, but not through any merit of his. This is but one instance to show how little Bolivar deserves the admiration bestowed upon him. The allusions to history in the book are, however, only incidental. Nature, the actual condition of the country and the people, the prospects from a commercial and industrial point of view, and the political situation with its influence—these form the theme. The illustrations are good, though the river-views are little more than a portrait-gallery of antiquated wheel-steamer.

In his rapid survey, Mr. Petre does not, of course, include Panama, which, when he wrote, was already "independent," for the sake of the canal. He is tactful enough not to waste any words on the separation of the Isthmus from the mother country, but simply alludes to it as a *fait accompli*, against which there is no remedy for the Colombians.

In a manner as pleasing as it is skilful, the author guides his reader through an elaborate statistical account of the Republic of Colombia. There are a number of short, well-selected and well-arranged tables, but they are so placed and distributed as to appear like incidental illustrations to a generally fascinating text. Fascinating, above all, through its simplicity. There are few outbursts of feeling over the actions of men and no bombastic raptures over beauties of nature. To those of us who have travelled through or lived in the tropical high timber descriptions of animal life, as Mr. Petre observed it in the Colombian woods, is satisfactory reading, in that he states: "Bird and insect life is ever present in infinite variety. . . . But of the mammalia one sees or hears little." Only about the mighty rivers do higher types of mammals occasionally appear in the daytime; the forests are usually silent and seem deserted. We know of a very skilful collector of insects in South America who, in daily excursions for five months spent in the midst of forests known to be peopled by quadrupeds, birds, and especially by reptiles, found only a few parrots, and one single snake.

To the miner and mineralogist, Mr. Petre's description of the emerald-bearing sites in the ancient province of Muzos and his report of the manner of working them, is of interest, if not of positive value. A glance at the mineral wealth of the country informs us of the existence and locations of ores and other minerals, among which platinum plays no unimportant role. That the useful products of the vegetable kingdom are not omitted, but receive their due share of attention in a popular book of this character, need hardly be stated. The diversity of climatic zones through which Colombia ranges from the seaboard to the summits of the Cordillera, produces a corresponding variety of plants useful to man, among which, for the present, coffee and cacao are the principal ones improved for commercial purposes. But he sees "openings" for many others, now neglected, such as sugar, rice, &c.

On the whole, Mr. Petre may be congratulated upon the contribution to economic geography he has furnished in this sketch of the most northwesterly of South American States. It is a meritorious effort, and would be still more so had he been able to go into greater detail on many points in relation with his general subject.

A. F. B.